IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 12, 18 and 23 as set forth below.

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for making a flexible membrane having a polymeric matrix and a particulate material immobilized within said matrix, said method comprising:

providing a support having a first substantially flat surface and a second substantially flat surface;

combining at least a polymer and a selected quantity of particulate material to form a blend;

applying a substantially uniform thickness of said blend to each of said surfaces; and

advancing said support with said blend applied thereon into at least one treatment bath at a rate of approximately 1-4ft./min.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidenefluoride, cellulose acetate and polyvinyl chloride.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said polymer is hydrophobic.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 12 comprising selectively distributing said particulate material within said membrane.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said membrane comprises between 5% and 30% of said polymer and 70-95% of particulate.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said membrane comprises at least 50% by weight of said particulate material.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 comprising dissolving said polymer in an organic solvent to provide ~~said~~ a polymer solution prior to combining said polymer ~~solution~~ with said particulate material.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 further comprising contacting said support with said blend applied thereon with a liquid that is a non-solvent for said polymer by immersing said support in a bath of said liquid for a selected period of time after said applying step.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said blend is applied to a moving sheet of said support continuously.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein said support with said blend applied thereon is alternately immersed in and removed from one or more water baths.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 further comprising drying said membrane.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22 comprising drying said membrane for at least 10 minutes at 50° C.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 12, 14 or 23 further comprising treating said membrane with a wetting agent or hydrophilizing coating agent.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said agent comprises between 0.20% and 1% polyvinyl alcohol.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said agent comprises glycerol.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said agent comprises sodium chloride.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 24 further comprising drying said membrane after said treating.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 27 wherein said agent comprises a 0.9% sodium chloride.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 further comprising introducing said support into a housing containing said blend in the step of applying said support.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 12 further comprising contouring said membrane into a pleated sheet.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 12 further comprising contouring said membrane into a rippled sheet.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 30 comprising substantially excluding particles of said particulate material having a diameter greater than about 20 μM.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said polymer comprises either a) at least two polymers or b) at least two copolymers or c) at least a polymer and copolymer.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 22 further comprising cutting said membrane to a desired size and sealing at least one edge of said membrane.

37-39 (Canceled)